AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 4-10 with the following amended paragraph:

As an example, a macro queue 18 groups a number of individual member queues 30. Macro queue 18 allows processes 6 (e.g., processes A-D) a̶ to treat the grouped member queues as a single entity. Macro queues are used to transmit requests to multiple processes or individual processes within a particular process group, or consolidate the requests of multiple processes to a single queue to be serviced by a single process. The individual member queues (e.g., 30a, 30b, 30c) of a macro queue (e.g., 18) may be prioritized relative to one another to provide better or favored service models to select clients.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 20-27 with the following amended paragraph:

Message queue 30 stores messages sent from a local process 104 or a remote process 106. The local process 104 sends messages to message queue 30 directly. The remote process 106 sends messages to the message queue 30 over network 5 through remote queue proxies 50a, 50b. A macro queue 18b is constructed and associated with message queue 30 and additional message queues (n̶o̶w̶not shown) so that an API 32b can access the message queues as if accessing a single queue. Likewise, a macro queue 18a is constructed and associated with message queues (e.g.,

message queue 30) so that an API 32a can access the message queues as if accessing a single queue.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 12-28 with the following amended paragraph:

To pass messages between local process 104 and remote process 106, local process 104 calls a CreateQueueInstance (abbreviated CreateQInstance) function and passes an argument "Actual" to create an "actual" instance of the MessageQueue class, which becomes the message queue object 30. (Note: according to object oriented programming terminology, the CreateQInstance function would be called a "method" that is associated with the queue manager "object." The term "function" is used here instead of "method.") A unique name, IP address, and port number is assigned to the message queue object 30. When a remote process 106 intends to make a connection to message queue 30, the remote process 106 looks up an ~~LADP~~LDAP database (not shown) to find the name, IP address, and port number of the message queue 30 and calls the appropriate API to create remote queue proxies 50a-b and communication stacks 52a-b. The communication stacks 52a-b serve as interfaces between the remote queue proxies 50a-b and the network 5. Note that when a process and a message queue are hosted at different computers, the process is considered to be remote with respect to message queue. In some implementations, a computer may allocate different address spaces to different processes, with each process running independent of each other. In such implementations, when a process and a message queue are located in

different address spaces, the process is also considered to be remote with respect to the message queue.

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 9-20 with the following amended paragraph:

In step 512, process 104 calls the CreateMacroQInstance function to instruct the queue manager 14 to create a macro queue 38. In step 514, queue manager 14 calls a constructor to create a MacroQueue instance 38. In step 516, process 104 calls a ~~AddMacroQMemeberInstance~~ AddMacroQMemberInstancefunction to instruct the macro queue 38 to add a message queue. The ~~AddMacroQMemeberInstance~~ AddMacroQMemberInstancefunction function also sets the priority for the message queue 30 that is added to the macro queue 38. In steps 518 to 524, a message queue 30 is created and configured. In step 526, process 104 calls the ~~AddMacroQMemeberInstance~~ AddMacroQMemberInstancefunction function to instruct macro queue 38 to add another message queue and to set the priority value for the new message queue. In steps 528 to 534, a message queue 31 is created and configured. In step 534, process 104 calls the QueueOpen function to open the macro queue instance 38. In step 538, the macro queue instance 38 calls the QueueOpen function to open the message queue 30. In step 540, the macro queue 38 calls the QueueOpen function to open the message queue 31.